

## **Community Engagement Process for Southwest County Boundary Study**

### **School Board CPDC Work Session, September 13, 2010**

This process is proposed to be conducted in two phases— Southwest county area community dialogues and a countywide survey—during October and November 2010.

The objective of the community engagement is to elicit information from the community that will help the School Board make a decision on the Southwest County boundaries.

The promise to our public is two-fold:

- (1) To provide them with the context, background and details on several potential boundary change scenarios.
- (2) To listen to their feedback on the presented scenarios and carefully consider this feedback as an important component of the School Board's boundary decision-making process.

#### **Phase One: Community dialogues**

Community dialogues, which will be modeled after the changing school start times community dialogues, will bring parents and interested citizens together in small group discussions to explore and answer questions that will provide critical information to the School Board.

- Identify six locations in the Southwest area of Fairfax County and schedule community dialogues within a two-day period during the last half of October 2010. There are three dialogues per evening scheduled for Monday, October 25, and Tuesday, October 26, to ensure a balanced community representation at each dialogue.
- The community dialogues will start with a staff presentation that will provide the same information that is available on the web site—criteria, scenarios, context, and other information. Staff will share the same information at every meeting for consistency.
- After the presentation, participants will form groups of 10-12, pick a facilitator and a recorder, and proceed to discuss a series of questions provided to them. The recorder will complete the discussion guide with the group's answers and turn it in at the end of the evening.

- As the discussion groups work, questions that arise from participants will be answered individually by staff circulating among the tables.
- The discussion guides will be collected, analyzed for similar themes, posted publicly on the FCPS web site, and distributed to the School Board. The staff will use the feedback to modify potential boundary scenarios, and then use the revised scenario(s) to survey the public for their input.
- RSVP sign-up for community dialogues will be requested but not required in order to plan for adequate space.

### **Phase Two: Survey**

After the community dialogue meetings, the revised scenarios will be posted online along with a survey that will encourage parents and other interested citizens to provide feedback. The survey will invite feedback from the entire county that provides the opportunity for a balanced perspective.

- The School Board boundary criteria, revised scenarios, context, and other important information will be posted on the FCPS web site that parents and other interested citizens will be invited to visit and learn about the boundary options.
- A web survey will be posted online that will invite parents and other interested citizens to take after they have viewed the posted background materials.
- The feedback will be gathered and analyzed; results will be posted publicly and provided to School Board.

The community engagement process will be completed before these critical dates:

- January 20, 2011 – Boundary recommendations introduced as new business at the regular School Board meeting
- February 7 and 8 – Public hearings (plus February 9, if needed)
- February 14 – School Board work session
- February 24 – School Board decision on Southwest county boundaries